

Serial No.: 09/382,553

Attorney Docket No.: 1999P07755US02

**REMARKS**

Upon entry of the instant Amendment, Claims 1-35 are pending. Claims 1, 13, and 24 have been amended and 30-35 have been added to more particularly point out Applicants' invention.

Claims 1-29 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103 as being unpatentable over Lo et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,933,967 ("Lo"). Applicants respectfully submit that the claimed invention is not taught, suggested, or implied by Lo.

As discussed in the Specification, embodiments of the present invention relate to a communication network and an associated network manager server. The network management server allows, for example, updating a multiple of types of objects and coordinating such updating across the network. In one embodiment, the network includes one or more instances of a first object type and one or more instances of a second object type. The first object type is associated with a first product of the communication network and the second object type is associated with a second product of the network. The network includes, e.g., a first local module for configuring each instance of the first object type and a second local module for configuring each instance of the second object type. A network management server of the network includes a product specific coordinator. The product specific coordinator includes means for coordinating configuration activities among each instance of the first object type via the first local module and means for coordinating configuration activities among each instance of the second object type via the second local module.

The network further includes a network coordinator adapted for configuring each instance of a network object. The network object may include a first component associated with the first object type and a second component associated with the second object type. One or more of the first and second components may be present across one or more nodes. A suitable network object might include, as an example, a person object that includes a PBX component and a phone mail component.

Serial No.: 09/382,553

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Advantageously, the network object allows definition of changes in a relatively simple, modular, network-wide manner.

In contrast, as acknowledged in the Official Action, Lo does not provide either separate local means or separate instance configuration of the first and second object types. Furthermore, Applicants respectfully submit that Lo does not define network objects, as described in the claims at issue. In particular, embodiments of the present invention can define a network object, such as a person object, having one or more components such as phone mail or PBX components. Embodiments of the present invention allow for moving, adding, deleting, etc., such a person object by specifying the object; the network management server then identifies components and performs the act by invoking local configuration modules. In contrast, Lo does not allow a user to identify a network (person) object and then perform multiple local configurations of multiple local objects, as generally recited in the claims at issue. Thus, if anything, Lo is representative of problems solved by the present invention.

Newly added claims 30-35 are believed allowable for reasons similar to those discussed above.

As such, the Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw the rejection of the claims.

For all of the above reasons, Applicants respectfully submit that the application is in condition for allowance, which allowance is earnestly solicited.

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